



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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***STATE'S METH AWARENESS, PREVENTION EFFORTS HIGHLIGHTED
ON NATIONAL METHAMPHETAMINE AWARENESS DAY
Local Coalition Receives National Recognition***

PHOENIX – Today marks National Methamphetamine Awareness Day, a collaborative effort to reach potential methamphetamine (meth) users with a message of prevention, and to inform current meth users how to receive help. In Arizona, the Governor's Office has been working to create a greater sense of awareness about the dangers and effects of meth on both individuals and communities.

In January, Governor Napolitano awarded \$440,000 in grant funding to assist in the development of 22 local anti-meth coalitions around the state. These coalitions have been working collaboratively with law enforcement officials, treatment professionals, parents, school personnel, businesses and others to increase community awareness and participation in local prevention efforts. Public outreach efforts such as community forums and specialized training sessions have enabled the coalitions to successfully begin educating their communities on the dangers of meth use and production.

One coalition in Maricopa County, the Northeast Valley Coalition Against Methamphetamine, will receive a certificate today from the Office of National Drug Control Policy commending their meth prevention and education efforts. The certificate will be presented along with a copy of the presidential proclamation declaring Nov. 30, 2006 National Methamphetamine Awareness Day.

"Fighting meth production and use in Arizona is an enormous task, but it is a critical task that we can't back down from," said Governor Napolitano. "Engaging citizens and experts with diverse backgrounds to participate in local coalitions and a statewide meth task force is the best way to create an effective, comprehensive plan to eliminate meth in Arizona."

In addition to the county coalitions, the Governor created the Arizona Statewide Methamphetamine Task Force in February 2006, appointing Pima County Attorney Barbara LaWall as Chair in August. The task force, comprised of stakeholders from around the state, is working on a statewide strategic action plan to reduce the impact of meth to Arizona's treatment, prevention and law enforcement systems.

The task force and the Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families will host a two-day Methamphetamine Strategic Planning Summit on January 10-11, 2007. The summit will serve as a strategic planning meeting for developing policy recommendations that address the impact of meth at both the state and local level.